This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of processing runtime functions, comprising:

   receiving a call to a runtime function;

   determining associated data from the call to the runtime function;

   determining a target <u>address</u> from the associated data;

   <u>comparing the target address with a reference list of valid target addresses;</u> and

   <u>if the target address is found on the reference list of valid target addresses then</u> executing the target.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining the associated data comprises accessing data in a data structure connected with the runtime function and calculating the associated data based on the accessed data.

3. – 4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim <u>1</u> ~~4, wherein maintaining the list comprises~~ <u>comprising the step of</u> generating the <u>reference</u> list of valid ~~targets~~ <u>target addresses</u> at compiler and link time.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim <u>1</u> ~~4, wherein maintaining the list comprises~~ <u>comprising the step of</u> generating the <u>reference</u> list of valid ~~targets~~ <u>target addresses</u> at runtime.

7. – 9. (Canceled).

10. (Currently Amended) A ~~tangible~~ computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing a method of processing runtime functions, the method comprising:

   receiving a call to a runtime function;

determining associated data from the call to the runtime function;

determining a target <u>address</u> from the associated data;

<u>comparing the target address with a reference list of valid target addresses;</u> and

<u>if the target address is found on the reference list of valid target addresses then</u>

executing the target.

11. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer readable~~ <u>computer-readable</u> medium of claim 10, wherein the step of determining the associated data comprises accessing data in a data structure connected with the runtime function and calculating the associated data based on the accessed data.

12. – 13 (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim <u>10</u> ~~13, wherein~~ ~~maintaining the list comprises~~ <u>comprising the step of</u> generating the list of valid ~~targets~~ <u>target</u> <u>addresses</u> at compiler and link time.

15. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim <u>10</u> ~~13, wherein~~ ~~maintaining the list comprises~~ <u>comprising the step of</u> generating the list of ~~targets~~ <u>target</u> <u>addresses</u> at runtime.

16. – 18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A system for processing runtime functions, comprising:

      a processor that receives a call to a runtime function; and

      a dispatcher system that determines associated data from the call to the runtime

function, determines a target <u>address</u> from the associated data, and <u>if the target address is</u>

<u>found on the reference list of valid target addresses then</u> executes the target.

20. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein the dispatcher system comprises a module to

access data in a data structure connected with the runtime function and calculate the

associated data based on the accessed data.

21. – 22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) The system of claim <u>19</u> ~~22~~, further comprising a compiler that

generates the <u>reference</u> list of valid ~~targets~~ <u>target addresses</u>.

24. – 26 (Canceled)

27. (Original) The system of claim 19, further comprising a compiler and a linker that

compiles code to produce an executable that is marked with an identifier indicating that the

executable supports runtime protection.

28. (New) The method of claim 1 comprising the step of storing the target address in a caller

provided location.

29. (New) The method of claim 1 comprising the step of terminating execution if the target

address is not found on the reference list of valid target addresses.

30. (New) The method of claim 1 comprising the step of storing the reference list of valid

target addresses in memory.

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31. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 10 comprising the step of storing the target address in a caller provided location.

32. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 10 comprising the step of terminating execution if the target address is not found on the reference list of valid target addresses.

33. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 10 comprising the step of storing the reference list of valid target addresses in memory.

34. (New) The system of claim 19 comprises a module to store the target address in a caller provided location.

35. (New) The system of claim 19 wherein execution is terminated if the target address is not found on the reference list of valid target addresses.

36. (New) The system of claim 19 comprises a module to store the reference list of valid target addresses in memory.